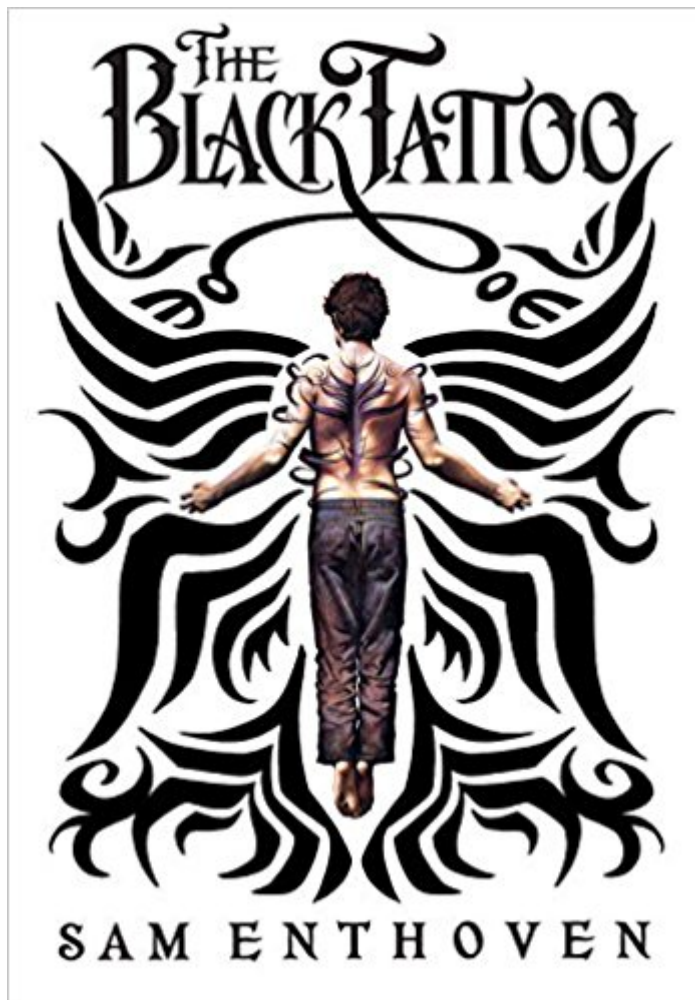


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# The Black Tattoo



## Synopsis

Jack's best friend, Charlie, is in serious trouble, possessed by an ancient demon called the Scourge who plans to use Charlie to bring about its evil ends—which, unfortunately, involve the destruction of the entire universe. Now Jack and the butt-kicking, sword-wielding Esme must contend with floating sharks, intelligent jelly, oversized centipedes, gladiator pits, and vomiting bats, all for the sake of saving Charlie from the Scourge. And, hopefully, saving the universe from total and utter annihilation.

## Book Information

Paperback: 528 pages

Publisher: Razorbill; Reprint edition (January 10, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1595141332

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Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 5.8 x 1.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars 37 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,153,623 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in Books > Teens >

Literature & Fiction > Sports > Martial Arts #249 in Books > Children's Books > Sports &

Outdoors > Martial Arts #1175 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Humorous

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 9 Up "London teen Jack leads a not-very-interesting life. His friend Charlie is none too bright and is blinded by his anger over his parents' divorce. Jack stands by his best mate through thick and thin, even when Charlie, possessed by a demon, crosses into Hell itself. Khentimentu, also known as the Scourge, has been trapped in the roots of an ancient tree for thousands of years by a secret society called The Brotherhood of Sleep. Charlie, thinking he is being recruited into it, unwittingly becomes a host for the escaped Scourge, manifested in a writhing, black tattoo. With Charlie's help, the demon kills all the members of the Brotherhood except the young warrior-woman Esme. When the demon and Charlie escape into Hell, it is up to Jack and Esme to rescue Charlie and save the universe from Khentimentu's evil plan. Enthoven has created an interesting and original universe and a gripping story. Hell is a demon-populated Roman empire at its most

decadent, complete with gladiators and an all-powerful emperor. There are a few plot inconsistencies in this hefty book, and scattered Briticisms will momentarily trip up some readers, but overall it is a readable story with an amusing denouement. A good choice for readers ready to move on from Darren Shan's popular "Cirque du Freak" and "Demonata" series (both Little, Brown).â Anthony C. Doyle, Livingston High School Library, CA Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A fight to save the world from an evil presence; magical creatures; and three teen protagonists (two boys and girl) . . . : sound familiar? Esme has trained all her life to help her father and the Brotherhood defeat the Scourge, an evil entity that plans to end the world. Charlie gains superpowers as he becomes host to the Scourge, which manifests itself as a shifting black tattoo. Charlie's friend Jack becomes an unwitting, unskilled participant in the battle against the evil. Campy humor enlivens the sometimes cliched events, which move between London and Hell through a portal located in a pub. Esme's martial arts and sword-wielding skills provide plenty of action, and a wide range of intriguing creatures populates the story: floating sharks; blood-sucking, meal-vomiting bats; and giant spiders--sometimes serving as gladiator adversaries in Hell. Adventure and invention abound, but tighter plotting would have improved the story. The epilogue sets the stage for a sequel. Cindy DobrezCopyright Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I have not personally read The Black Tattoo, however I purchased this for my son as a Christmas present. He literally wore out his paperback copy of the book from reading it so many times and from loaning it to his friends. He was absolutely thrilled to receive the Hardcover book and even happier when he realized that the cover was also a poster. The condition was as described. I am very happy with my purchase.

Since I had not heard of this book as a popular one I did not expect much but truth be told it was amazing. Wonderfully written with great descriptions of character emotions and setting. There were many conflicts both internal and external between characters. I can honestly hope for much more from this book. Movies or sequels. I chat wait

This is the first novel my 13 child has read, after years of me trying to get her to read. She loved this

book and wanted one for her own! It's not a romance, it's age appropriate, it inspires creativity. My only concern would be the religious aspect, if you are set in your ways and unable to embrace imagination, then don't read this book! Otherwise, it's very good.

I really am scratching my head. The premise of the book sounded fascinating - The Scourge, an evil entity is released to awaken a dragon in Hell to destroy the universe. I started reading and must say that the book captured you and kept you reading. But do the characters make you like them? Do you want to read its sequel? This is one dark book - most of the action takes place in Hell. Charlie has been duped by the Scourge into thinking he will rule Hell, and goes with him into the realm, Jack, his best mate, follows to rescue him, and then Esme, the last member of an ancient organization to imprison the Scourge, follows them to contain the Scourge and place him back in his prison. I didn't like the varied demons. I didn't like that God joined Hell because he was bored with things. I didn't like the French secret group how were supposed to 'save' Esme. The trio of Esme, Jack and Charlie have the potential to create an interesting series, but I do not think I will be reading them. This is not Hogwarts. This is not Harry, Ron and Hermione. I do not see any comparisons other than there are 3 young people. As a fan of sci-fi, thrillers, I can tell you this is one heck of a book. (sorry I had to do that) But it did not click for me. Well written, good cover and poster. You may really like the book - it has potential and you may like this struggle between light and dark. But I did not, and cannot see a young person reading this without being disturbed by the beings and the action in Hell. Why am I giving the book 5 stars? It is an excellent read, and many will like it, but I am honest in telling you this was not my kind of book.

A light, enjoyable read

It was undamaged and it came early! I read this book beforehand it was amazing, now I'm just happy I have my own copy.

I have to mentor high school students in Sept who have read the book. So I have to read it first. Thanks for sending it so quickly.

This was a wonderful book. Came to me in excellent condition. Couldn't believe it. Thank you so much.

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